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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

Food and Drug Quality Control Laboratory

(BUR/74/027)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979
Starting date of project activities:	February 1979 (Excluding previous preparatory assistance in 1975)
Planned completion date:	October 1981
To be executed by:	World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Health (Ministry of Health)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$388 400
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Facilities for testing food samples of the common type such as raw milk, water and certain varieties of processed food are available at the National Health Laboratory, but the competence for the comprehensive testing of food adulterants, additives, toxic and harmful substances has yet to be developed, Moreover, the Laboratory has no facilities or experience in the quantitative assay of pharmaceutical products. The Government will not be in a position to enforce the provision of the Burma Public Health Act until well-organized food and drug quality control laboratory facilities are available.

2. A preparatory mission from the WHO Regional Office for South East Asia visited Burma in 1975 to make a thorough study of the food and drug quality control services. The present project results from the discussions and inspections of the laboratories made by the mission.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

II. Objectives and activities

3. The projects aims at: (a) up-grading the facilities at the National Health Laboratory for food and drug analysis; (b) developing trained manpower for testing in areas such as pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, drug microbiology and biological standardization; (c) establishment of an instruments service for food and drug analysis; (d) establishment of an agency for receiving, storing and distributing international standards/reference substances used in food and drug analysis; (e) creation of a unit for the compilation of standards and specifications for the drugs and food items produced locally and imported into Burma; and (f) building the nucleus of a library for reference books and journals.

III. Inputs

4. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing and Associated Agencies, the services of consultants in food and drug administration, drug microbiology, biological standardization, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacology. UNDP will also finance: administrative support personnel; fellowships for overseas training; equipment and supplies for the food and drug laboratories; office and transportation equipment; the renovation of the laboratory buildings and animal house; and miscellaneous costs.

5. The Government will provide: a national project manager and two deputy managers who will be responsible respectively for the food and drug activities; technical and administrative staff for the National Health Laboratory; the costs of all local training; locally available expendable and non-expendable supplies and equipment; office premises and laboratories; miscellaneous charges and sundry expenses.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
International personnel	8 100	85 700	93 800
Training	-	109 600	109 600
Equipment	-	189 400	189 400
Miscellaneous	-	3 700	3 700
	8 100	388 400	396 500

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $82,500 in kind.

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